

**WISCONSIN BOARD OF
AGRICULTURE, TRADE & CONSUMER PROTECTION**

RESOLUTION

Whereas, One of the key elements in preserving and expanding Wisconsin's \$59-billion agriculture industry is the preservation of its farmland; and

Whereas, The Wisconsin Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement program (PACE) has shown itself to be one of several effective tools available to help farmers maintain their farmland by protecting it from non-agricultural development; and

Whereas, The program not only has the potential to protect farmland but create economic opportunities by fostering the growth of farm businesses and thereby creating jobs; and

Whereas, This board has heard public comments from young farmers stating that their decision to remain or get involved in agriculture will be influenced by knowing there will be land to farm now and in the future and that Wisconsin is serious about farmland preservation; and

Whereas, In the two years the PACE program has been in existence, applications for more than 20-thousand acres of farmland has been requested for protection; and

Whereas, Funding has been provided to assist in the purchase of only 5,600 acres and that while the PACE program still exists, there is no current state funding to support it.

Therefore, let it be resolved, The Wisconsin Citizen Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection fully supports the PACE program and urges the legislature to identify appropriate funding and staff support for this program to ensure Wisconsin will have sufficient land to farm now and in the future.

Approved by a unanimous vote of the members of the Wisconsin Citizen Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection on August _____, 2012.

Andy Diercks
Chair